[17th March 1960

Food Production

* 438 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any scheme sponsored with the assistance of the Ford Foundation for maximising food production in one district has been formulated and sent to the Centre for approval; and

(*b*) if so, the details thereof?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) & (*b*) An outline of a scheme by the Government of India for intensifying agricultural production in selected areas with the assistance of the Ford Foundation has been received from the Government of India.

This scheme is to be implemented as a pilot programme in a selected district having optimum potential for maximising production and to ascertain the most effective wages of expanding food production. Details relating to the scheme have not yet been finalised. Thanjavur District has been selected by the Government for the implementation of the scheme. The finalized scheme is awaited from the Government of India.

"Package programme"

*454-A *Q.*—SRI T. S. RAMASAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Thanjavur district has been finally fixed for the package assistance programme in Agriculture;

(*b*) the details of assistance to be given to individual agriculturists;

(*c*) the total financial and production targets aimed at through the programme; and

(*d*) the date on which this programme will commence?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) *to* (*d*) It has been tentatively decided to implement the scheme in Thanjavur district. Details relating to the scheme have not yet been settled and final decisions will be taken on receipt of the finalized scheme from the Government of India. It has since been proposed to inaugurate the scheme on the Tamil New Year's day, i.e., 13th April 1960.

SRI N. K. PALANISAMI : I have no objection to the Thanjavur district being selected for this purpose. But the point is why the Government are selecting always developed areas and why not they select under-developed areas?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : When the hon. Member raised no objection to the selection of the Thanjavur District. I thought that he agreed with the decision of the Government. On account of the larger production potential, the Thanjavur district has been selected.